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Human Rights Commission Minutes 02/16/2005

Human Rights Commission Meeting Minutes - Draft
February 16, 2005

In Attendance:

Marlissa Briggett, Christine Carney, Christine Deshler, Kevin McGann, A. Nick Minton, Nancy Rhoads, Bill Shea, Nancy Sweeney

Absent:

Cecilia Akuffo, Sheri Baron, Kim Lam, James Webster

The meeting was called to order at 8:10 p.m.

1. The January minutes with a few changes were approved and accepted.

2. Victoria Cohen, appointed by the Town Manager, was welcomed as a newly appointed commissioner.

3. Town Manager, Brian Sullivan, visited with us - he spoke of appointments that are coming up - requested resumes be sent to him and he will respond to people who have H/R issues - Bill Shea gave him an overview of what the Commission is about and issues we've handled and the difficulties of working with people on sensitive issues - how we try to follow up and handle complaints appropriately - how at present we see ourselves as educators on Human Rights through dialogues - like the present special education issue in the schools - Mr. Sullivan was introduced to all attending members and agreed to work with us as the needs and appointments present themselves.

4. Vision 2020 request for mailing support - Bill spoke with Jane Howard regarding this matter and tabled the discussion until next meeting.

5. Survey results - members were delighted with response of Survey - copies of results were distributed - letters will be sent to all who requested consideration for future appointments - at present there are two openings and 64 people expressed interest, according to our survey - Bill Shea will speak with Town Manager and School Committee about future appointments - Christine Deshler and Christine Carney will write letters as needed once mailing list is in order.

6. Web-site information - Marlissa made a listing of items to go on our Town website - she will work with Patsy Kraemer and try to get information concerning the AHRC on it as soon as possible.

7. Sub-Committee Meeting - Special Education flyer will be mailed out by the first of next week.

8. Money request for Safe School Task Force - (Photo Exhibit - "*In Our Family*") - there is going to be a 6 week program of portraits to hang in the library and schools for a two week period - Christine Carney requested permission to share our mailing list to help promote this program and asked for members to be in charge of refreshments for the public

viewing on April 28th and 30th in the Community Room of the Library - asked members to consider signing up at our next meeting - these portraits will be shown at the Bishop and Thompson Schools also as part of a **Family Diversity Project** - also seeking a donation - Christine Deshler moved to donate **\$100** depending on food cost - all agreed -

Nancy Sweeney requested **\$300 for the Facing History Cause** in support of teachers - she moved to donate \$300 - Marissa 2nd the motion - after discussion - all in favor.

9./11. Racial Profiling, May 17th - dialogue with Ed Flynn, Public Safety for Mass. - will be held at the Town Hall at 7:00 P.M. - *"Challenge of Racial Profiling Post 9/11"* - also featured will be Frederick Schaur - *"Is it possible to do racial profiling without infringing on people's rights?"*

Christine Carney expressed concern for all the work to present the March 21st program "Afghanistan 1380" and not having a good crowd present - Nancy will check with Cecilia - this discussion tabled until next month's meeting.

8. Election of new chairperson - Christine Carney moved to nominate Bill Shea as Chair and Nick Minton as Co-Chair - Nancy sweeney 2nd the motion and all were in favor - "Congratulations and Good Luck!"

9. Other Business:

Sensitivity Training issues were discussed at length again and hope continues for providing a pamphlet on this subject in the near future -

Marissa Briggett has invited **Janis Kearney**, author of *"Cotton Field of Dreams"* to come to Boston - she is requesting a travel stipend and there is a possible April date hopefully at Whittemore Robbins House - Christine Carney made a motion to give her a \$300 stipend - Kevin McGann 2nd the motion to supplement travel - all agreed -

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 P.M.

Prepared and submitted by:
Marylynn Carnell
Staff Assistant